

Fort Des Moines Historic Complex,
Building 72
(Stable Guard)
Des Moines
Polk County
Iowa

HABS No. IA-121-P

HABS
IOWA,
77-DESMO,
24-P-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Rocky Mountain Regional Office
Department of the Interior
P.O. Box 25287
Denver, Colorado 80225

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Building No. 72. Stable Guard

This structure, fronting on Thayer Street, was completed on February 24, 1905, at a cost of \$3,945.35, and was built in accordance with plan 39G in the Quartermaster General's office. It was built of brick joined by red-pigmented mortar in running bond on a rusticated limestone foundation and had a slate roof. The building had a capacity for six men on stable guard duty. It measured 33 feet wide by 53 feet long. At the front stood an open, single tiered porch with turned wood columns supporting a roof. Concrete steps without railing led onto the porch. Two doors were in the center of the front; a six-over-six light double hung window stood on either side of the doors. On the gable was a six-light window. At the south side of the building were four windows on the lower level. As in front, a single six-light window adorned the rear gable, and either side had two double hung windows and a double door, the latter placed towards the rear of the building. All windows had 3-course segmental arches and plain lug limestone sills. Two chimneys and a single ventilator surmounted the roof.

Inside the stable guard the floors were of wood and brick. Floor space totaled 1,550 square feet arranged as follows:

2 rooms, 15' 6" x 16'
2 rooms, 15' 4" x 24'
2 rooms, 10' 3" x 15' 6"

Stoves provided heat and the structure was equipped with electrical lighting. Repairs over the years were minimal, as well as unspecified. Maintenance costs averaged less than \$6.00 per year between 1905 and 1921. In the late 1930s or early 1940s Building No. 72 functioned as the post education office. Since that time alterations have included the removal of the front porch, the alteration of the double door on the west

side to a single door, and the installation of storm windows. The interior has undergone substantial renovation to include the addition of partitions. In 1987 the building was being utilized by Headquarters, Iowa Wing, Civil Air Patrol, and was in good condition.(30)

30. Card for Building No. 72. "Historical Record of Buildings." NA, RG 77, Box No. 51; Field survey notes, February 20-22, 1987. QMG Plan No. 39G was not located in NA, Cartographic Archives Division.